

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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P R 191458Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8744
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 567

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, EC, GR
SUBJECT: GREEK PARLIAMENT DEBATES POLICY TOWARD EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

REF: ATHENS 181 (NOTAL)

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON GREECE'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE EC, WHICH WAS DEMANDED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES FOLLOWING
THE JANUARY 4 RESIGNATION OF TWO KEY SENIOR MEMBERS OF
GREECE'S NEGOTIATING TEAM (REFTEL), WAS HELD JANUARY 14.
ALTHOUGH DEBATE LASTED FOR EIGHT HOURS, IT WAS LESS HEATED THAN
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HAD BEEN EXPECTED. SINCE THE LEADER OF THE UNION OF
THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UDC), GEORGE MAVROS, DID NOT
PARTICIPATE BECAUSE HE WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS WAS REPRESENTED BY COORDINATION
MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS, WHO HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, ANDREAS PAPANDREAU, PRESIDENT OF
PASOK (PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT), REFUSED TO TAKE

PART IN THE DEBATE. INSTEAD, HE TABLED A SIX-PAGE STATEMENT ITEMIZING HIS OBJECTIONS TO BOTH THE CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND EC ENTRY ITSELF. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME, WHICH HE SAID PROVED THE COMPLETE ISOLATION OF THE ONLY TWO PARTIES OPPOSING EC ENTRY, PASOK AND THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR (KKE).

2. PAPANDREOU'S TABLED STATEMENT SAID THAT PASOK IS AGAINST EC ENTRY AND ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF NOT ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDING THE NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE GREEK PEOPLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE MAINTAINED THAT "ALL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE AEGEAN, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AIR CORRIDORS, AND THE ISSUE OF THE TURKISH MINORITY IN THRACE" WERE BEING DEALT WITH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE "CESSION OF NATIONAL TERRITORY AND THE AMPUTATION OF GREECE".

3. JOHN PESMAZOGLU WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF THE GOG DELEGATION TO THE MIXED GREEK-EC PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, SPOKE IN THE DEBATE ON NHLF OF THE UDC, THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY. HIS PARTY, HE SAID, FIRMLY SUPPORTS GREECE'S ADHESION TO THE EC BECAUSE OF THE BENEFITS FOR GREECE'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND ITS POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE ALLEGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY AGGRESSIVE IN INSISTING UPON GREECE'S INTERESTS IN THE AGRICULTURE

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SECTOR, AND HE CRITICIZED ITS FAILURE TO ASSURE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL FORCES OF THE NEGOTIATION STRATEGY AND TACTICS. ON HIS RETURN THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAVROS ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING EC ENTRY SHOULD INDEED BE SOUGHT, BUT NOT AT ANY COST. IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY IF ALL GREECE'S INTERESTS WERE SAFEGUARDED, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE. MOREOVER, ANY ATTEMPT TO CONNECT GREEK ENTRY TO THE EC WITH SETTLEMENT EITHER OF CYPRUS OR OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES OVER THE AEGEAN WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

4. REPLYING IN THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE TO PAPANDREOU'S CHARGES ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS DENIED ANY RELATION BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, AND STATED THAT, THANKS TO THE COURAGE OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, THERE WERE NO PRELIMINARY POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR GREECE'S ENTRY. FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, "IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ARE ALREADY RINGING THE DOORBELL OF THE COMMUNITY. FOR

THIS REASON OUR AIM MUST BE TO SPEED UP THE NEGOTIATIONS...
TO THE DEGREE PERMITTED BY THE NATION'S INTERESTS".

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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5.COMMENT: IN TERMS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ARGUMENT,
EMBASSY BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT EMERGED FROM THE DEBATE
WINNING MOST OF THE POINTS: THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY,
UDC, HAD TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC POSITION WITH
DIFFERENCES ESSENTIALLY OF NUANCE, WHILE PASOK
AGAIN PUSHED ITSELF INTO AN EXTREME POSITION AT
VARIANCE WITH THE MAINSTREAM OF GREEK OPINION. END LOU.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: KONTOGIORGHIS, IN PRIVATE CON-
VERSATION WITH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, CAST FURTHER LIGHT ON
THE SHAKE-UP IN GREECE'S NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (REFTEL),
WHICH IN EFFECT PRECIPITATED THE OPPOSITION'S CALL FOR
A DEBATE. THE ISSUE CONCERNED GREECE'S TACTICS IN
THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING AGRICULTURAL POLICY.
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GREECE AND THE EC EVIDENTLY DISAGREE IN THEIR INTER-
PRETATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL HARMONIZATION AS SET OUT IN
THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO KONTOGIORGHIS,
FORMER DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF BANK OF GREECE NICHOLAS
KYRIAZIDES, WHO ALSO HEADED GREECE'S EC TECHNICAL LEVEL
NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE, ARGUED FOR A POINT-BY-POINT
APPROACH TO THE AGRICULTURE ITEMS UNDER THE ASSOCIATION
AGREEMENT, WHEREAS KONTOGIORGHIS, REPRESENTING MINISTER
PAPALIGOURAS, EMPHASIZED SPEED OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN
ORDER THAT THE PROCESS BE SO FAR ADVANCED BEFORE SPAIN
AND PORTUGAL APPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IR-
REVERSIBLE; ACCORDING TO THIS STRATEGY, GREECE'S AGRI-
CULTURAL INTERESTS WOULD BE PROTECTED BY MUTUAL
TRADE-OFFS WITH THE EC AS THE OVERALL PICTURE EMERGED
LATER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. BEFORE MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS,
WHO HAS OVERALL AUTHORITY FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, REACHED
A FORMAL DECISION ON THIS ISSUE, KYRIAZIDES INSISTED
IN WRITING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER "ARBITRATE" THE
MATTER. KYRIAZIDES, WHO IS, REPORTEDLY, ASSOCIATED WITH
THE OPPOSITION UDC, APPARENTLY ELEVATED A DIFFERENCE
OF OPINION INTO A MATTER OF PERSONALITIES WHICH IN EFFECT
CHALLENGED PAPALIGOURAS' AUTHORITY. UNDER THESE CIR-
CUMSTANCES, ACCORDING TO KONTOGIORGHIS, THE PRIME MINISTER
IMMEDIATELY ORDERED KYRIAZIDES' REMOVAL FROM HIS POSTS,
INCLUDING THAT AT THE BANK OF GREECE. AS KONTOGIORGHIS
PUT IT, THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT
TO TECHNOCRATS. AS FOR VARFIS, HIS RESIGNATION WAS
LARGELY FOR PERSONAL REASONS. KONTOGIORGHIS' ACCOUNT
IS ESSENTIALLY CORROBORATED BY VIEWS EXPRESSED TO US BY
OTHER OBSERVERS IN THE GOG AND BANK OF GREECE.
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Message Attributes

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